The Worship of God
Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 2026 – 9:00 Morning Worship
Welcome to First Presbyterian Church via Zoom!

PRELUDE "Give Me Jesus" African American spiritual, arr. Marques L.A. Garrett

WELCOME

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP
Give ear, O people, to God's teachings.
For in parable and story God's wisdom is revealed.
Let us listen for things we have heard and known,
for the stories that are so important
that we keep telling them over and over again.
Let us remember God's glorious works in our own words.
People of God, be a witness and a light.
Share what you know and trust in the goodness of God.
Together, let us raise our hope and remember every opening and possibility.
Let us worship God in wonder and truth.

OPENING PRAYER
We come with our whole hearts ready and waiting
to share in your graceful abundance.
Come, O God, open to us.
We come uncertain and indecisive.
Come, O God, open to us.
We come hopeful and curious.
Come, O God, open to us.
We come expectant and eager.
Come, O God, open to us.
Open all the doors and welcome us in.
Invite us to share in your story, O God,
where there is more than enough love and even more grace.
Come, O God, open to us.

SING "Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning" #350

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
In another time and another place, Jesus says to his disciples,
"Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find;
knock, and the door will be opened for you.

For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds,
and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened" (Matthew 7:7–8).

Let us wonder about these questions in quiet contemplation:
- What doors need to be opened to us today?
- What doors have we shut to others?

What is God asking of us today?

ASSURANCE OF PARDON
Jesus assures you today and every day:
Ask, and it will be given to you.
Search, and you will find.
Knock, and God will always answer with love and grace.
Thanks be to God.

SHARING GOD'S PEACE
I invite you to turn to one another and share a sign of peace:
You're invited to unmute yourselves and exchange peace with one another

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE Psalm 78:1-7

SECOND SCRIPTURE Matthew 25:1-13
…The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION The Reverend Susan Phillips

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SING "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" #700

MOMENT FOR MISSION – HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

GIVING OUR GIFTS

DOXOLOGY "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" #609

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
With these gifts, O God,
we commit ourselves again to tending the light of Christ
and opening every door to welcome love.
Fill us, and these gifts, with your grace and wisdom.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FROM THE CHAT

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts & debtors)

SENDING INTO GOD'S WORLD

SING "Christ Beside Me" #702

SHARED BENEDICTION
Let us go out into God's world in peace;
have courage; hold on to what is good;
return to no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted;
support the weak; help the suffering; honor all persons;
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

SENDING
Let us prepare ourselves to share the love of Christ.
Let us ensure that there is oil in our lamps and fire in our bellies.
Let us live our lives as an expression of gratitude to God.
Amen.

POSTLUDE "Walk Together, Children" André Thomas